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UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 002575

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/CAR AND PM;NSC FOR SHANNON AND MADISON
LABOR FOR ILAB; TREASURY FOR OASIA-LAMONICA
USDOC FOR 4322/ITA/MAC/WH/CARIBBEAN BASIN DIVISION
USDOC FOR 3134/ITA/USFCS/RD/WH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#), [MARR](#), [MOFS](#), [PGOV](#), [DR](#), [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: DIPNOTE 11048 - PRESIDENT MEJIA NOTIFIES
WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM IRAQ

1. On April 27 Embassy received from the Foreign Ministry formal notification of withdrawal from Iraq by the Dominican Quisqueya Battalion, dated April 26.

Text follows: (Complementary intro...) and refers to the situation of the Ad Hoc "Quisqueya" Task Force, currently in Iraq.

As it is known by that honorable diplomatic mission, the government of the Dominican Republic, as proof of its unwavering commitment in the fight against terrorism, and in connection with the operation led by the United States of America to free and create the proper conditions for the stability and development of the people of Iraq, joined "Operation Iraqi Freedom," sending armed forces consisting of 302 infantry soldiers, as a significant support from our armed forces for the coalition.

On April 19, 2004, the Spanish government, fulfilling the commitment made by their current President, announced the withdrawal of its troops from "Operation Iraqi Freedom," immediately suspending all operations by Spanish personnel, leaving the Dominican troops without the necessary support to perform their regular operations. This made it impossible for our troops to carry out their assigned responsibilities.

For these reasons, his Excellency, the President of the Republic, has informed the Secretary of the Armed Forces of the decision to remove the Dominican troops from Iraq as soon as possible, given that the conditions are not adequate to assure that the troops are not exposed to life-threatening danger.

The Department of Foreign Relations gives notice to the government of the United States of the decision taken, at the same time that it reiterates that the Dominican Republic will continue supporting and cooperating with the United States of America in the fight against terrorism, and in steps taken in favor of the reconstruction of Iraq and world peace.

(End text)(Complementary close)
HERTELL